

# The Library Binder

VOLUME II, NUMBER 2

## EDITORIAL STAFF

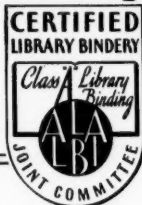
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FEBRUARY, 1954

PUBLISHED BY THE  
LIBRARY BINDING INSTITUTE  
IN THE INTEREST OF  
INCREASED USAGE AND PROPER  
PRESERVATION OF BOOKS.

## Whither L. B. I. ?

by BERNARD J. SCHAEFER, President  
Library Binding Institute



On the way back from Chicago after the Mid-West Regional Meeting of LBI, I began to think of the enormous strides that our trade organization and industry have made in the past few years.

My thoughts were perhaps stimulated by several recent meetings: the two regional meetings, and those of the Board of Directors and the Joint Committee of ALA and LBI.

I thought of the various activities in which we are collectively engaged through LBI. This naturally led to a re-examination of the purposes of the various projects currently occupying our energies.

It seems to me that all of these activities reduce themselves to one common denominator: SERVICE.

Ours is a service industry. We are an industry of small businessmen. We manufacture no product, but we repair and rebuild a very vital manufactured product — books. Handling, as we do, thousands of volumes belonging to the libraries of America, we have become, in a sense, their partners in the development and promotion of sound conservation practices.

This is a service undertaking which underlies the tenor of the industry and, of necessity, its organization, LBI. The primary function of our organization is service to the library profession. This is expressed organizationally through our Joint Committee with ALA.

Similarly, we serve our members through programs designed to make each of them a more efficient and prosperous businessman. In this way, we endeavor to insure the continuation of high standards of craftsmanship, quality and service.

Probably the most outstanding characteristic of our industry and of LBI is the spirit of our members. We are all competitors, anxious and eager to advance and improve

our individual businesses. Our competition is keen and vigorous. Yet, we seek to keep it fair. To do otherwise would be industrial suicide.

This spirit is perhaps the most conspicuous achievement of the past few years. It manifests the wholehearted acceptance of the fundamental idea that none of us can stand alone. By cooperation, sharing of experience — in short, by working together in those areas where it is legally permissible for us to do so, we have each advanced our own interest. This is enlightened selfishness.

Whither LBI? The road ahead seems clear to me. We must continue our service to the library profession and to ourselves. But, above all, we must keep vital and dynamic the fertile spirit of cooperation which has done so much for us.

## 18th Annual Joint Session

OF

## LIBRARIANS AND BINDERS



HOTEL STATLER  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 8, 1954



LBI Annual Meeting

APRIL 9, 1954

### The Joint Committee of A.L.A. and L.B.I.

The American librarian occupies a unique position in the cultural matrix of a vibrant society. More than a mere custodian of the written word, he is its guardian and protector, his point of orientation is service. Translated into library operation, this means encouraging circulation or use. The written word is a tool used by a democracy to enhance individual dignity.

One of the major problems facing librarians has been how to conserve the written word. This has long been recognized as a responsibility to be discharged by the cooperative action of the library profession and the library binding industry. With this in mind, in October of 1934, the Joint Committee of ALA and LBI was created. Probably no other step taken by the profession or industry has been more important in furthering the art of conservation.

The organization and duties of the Joint Committee were briefly stated by the ALA as follows:

*"To facilitate solution of problems of common interest to libraries and members of the Library Binding Institute; to cooperate in maintaining the highest possible standards of craftsmanship and responsibility of members of the LBI; to make recommendations, and upon request, to give assistance on binding matters to ALA and LBI."*

This profession-industry cooperative program was not without antecedents. Early in the '20's ALA, through its Bookbinding Committee, with the assistance of the Employing Bookbinders of America, had issued a set of specifications for library binding. A long step forward, it established a standard which both the profession and the industry could rely on as the minimum acceptable library binding. However, no machinery existed to implement and give meaning to the existence of the standard. Nor was there any device by which the resources of both librarians and binders could be channeled into avenues of further cooperation.

Thus the next logical step was the formation of the Joint Committee as the mechanism whereby cooperative endeavors of librarians and binders could be formalized. One of the first tasks of the Joint Committee was to review and revise the specifications and issue them, after ALA Council approval, as "The Minimum Specifications For Class A Library Binding of the Joint Committee of the ALA and LBI."

A new question naturally arose. True it was that there was established a standard for acceptable good binding which the library profession could rely on. Equally true was the fact that librarians need not now concern

themselves with devising their own specifications — a task for which most had neither the time nor the experience. But how can a librarian know which binder can produce Class A work?

To answer that question, a certification procedure was developed which is still in effect. Certified Binders are those who have been so designated by the Joint Committee as being capable of doing Class A work.

How does a binder become certified? He applies to LBI for membership. Samples of his work are submitted to the Joint Committee for examination by a subcommittee which examines the work to determine if it is Class A. It reports to the Joint Committee. If the work indicates that the binder is capable of producing Class A work, and if he also furnishes satisfactory evidence of insurance adequate to protect the property of libraries entrusted to him, he is Certified. In order to make it easy for librarians to know which binders are certified, a seal or insignia was prepared by the Joint Committee. It is the property of the Joint Committee and can be used only by Certified Binders under rules prescribed by it.

Throughout the procedure of examining the samples submitted the binder's anonymity is protected. Indeed, great care is exercised to keep any information he submits in the strictest of confidence. Furthermore, only librarian members of the Joint Committee vote on the question of certification. Membership in LBI is a prerequisite since only in that way can discipline and maintenance of standards be assured. Membership is open to all binders who can do Class A work. In fact, those who cannot are eligible for membership without being certified, but must become certified within two years. LBI's organization is democratic, its constitution being established so as to permit maximum participation by all binders free of any discrimination based upon size or geographical location.

Now that a set of standards had been established for acceptable binding, and machinery devised to determine which binders could meet this standard of performance, a new question arose: How to determine whether the binding furnished by a binder (whether or not he is certified) meets the specifications. In order to insure that standards were being maintained, it became necessary to develop machinery to follow up work done by binders.

To do this, the Joint Committee decided that a free examination service be furnished any librarian who wished to have specific volumes examined to see if they were in accordance with the Class A specifications. An Appraisal Committee was appointed by the President of LBI, consisting of librarians well skilled in binding techniques, whose task it is to examine work submitted to it. Here, too, the anonymity of the binder is protected, his name being kept confidential.

Subsequently, the history of LBI activities revolved around furthering the work of the

Joint Committee in the field of conservation. Its accomplishments have been many. Among the most outstanding have been the participation with LBI in the Annual Joint Sessions of Librarians and Binders, principally concerned with conservation problems, sponsoring the Library Binding Manual, written by Feipel and Browning, men outstanding in their field, and numerous surveys of conservation practices. It continually reviews the specifications, and during the war worked closely with the industry faced as it was with personnel and material shortages.

As an example of cooperation between an industry and its customers, there has probably been no equal in our economic history. This is so because it has been founded upon sound principles: first, it is non-discriminatory: all librarians benefit, all binders may participate; second, its objectives are sound: advance the art of conservation of the written word; third, it has been ably led. Its past and present members have all been men of outstanding ability and reputation, dedicated to their task and determined to discharge their responsibilities with high purpose.

What of the future? Any organization to continue must be continually attuned to the functional needs of the people it serves. Otherwise, it becomes a vestigial organ, withers and dies.

As the liaison between librarians and binders, the Joint Committee is today a vigorous and healthy organization. Particularly as a source of advice to LBI, its importance cannot be over-emphasized.

For example, at its last meeting the following matters were discussed:

- review of the petition of LBI to the United States Department of Commerce to have the Minimum Specifications adopted as the United States Commercial Standard for Library Binding.

- participation in the Federal Trade Commission Industry Conference and other proceedings leading to the adoption of a Fair Trade Practices Regulation for the Library Binding Industry. This was initiated by LBI to establish a high standard of fair competition and ethical business practices by binders to protect the industry and its customers.

- development of Simplified Practice Recommendations which can be of immeasurable assistance to binders and librarians. As far back as 1935, the Joint Committee recommended the use of Standardized Lettering for Periodicals. A committee is being appointed to study binding practices beginning in the library and continuing through the various steps of processing until the volumes are returned to the library. It is expected that the recommendations will result in economies and increased efficiency and service.

- appointment of a committee to study the preparation of a text to supplement the Manual. This is to be a working guide for the librarian (and student) covering the entire field of conservation practice and theory.

- advising LBI on its prize contest for librarians to stimulate thinking about conservation problems, including the appointment of the judges and approval of rules of the contest.

- advising LBI on the program for the forthcoming Joint Session of Binders and Librarians in Washington.

Truly the foresight and faith of the men who devised the Joint Committee have been amply rewarded. They built better than they realized. Their concept of cooperation has been transformed into a working relationship rich in achievement. It is a work that both the industry and profession can point to with pride.

Dudley A. Weiss

## The Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library

Northumberland, Pennsylvania



The Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library was founded in 1925 as a gift to Northumberland from Mrs. Frances Priestley Forsyth and Mrs. Mary Forsyth. It was given as a memorial to their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Priestley and Mr. and Mrs. William Forsyth.

The library occupies the former home of Dr. Joseph Priestley, who was a descendant of the eminent scientist and discoverer of oxygen, Joseph Priestley. Miss Jessie Wilson, who organized the library, has served as librarian since its founding. She began her library career at the Scranton Public Library, after which she served as children's librarian at the Pottsville Free Library, the Berwick Public Library and the Rochester Public Library in Pennsylvania.

When the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library opened in January, 1926, the founders contributed 1,500 books and a number of original water and oil paintings. They each provided a \$25,000 trust fund to the library for its maintenance. Today, 16,000 volumes are housed in the library where they serve as a symbol of public trust and community well being.



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CHARLES J. FLANAGAN, First Deputy Director, Erie County Public Library; Member A. L. A.; New York Library Association; New York Library Association Personell Administrative Committee.

ARNOLD H. TROTTER, Associate Director for Technical Departments, University of Illinois Library; Chairman of the Bookbinding Committee of A. L. A.

WILLIAM T. WEITZEL, Assistant Director, Personnel Officer and Head of Processing Department, City Library; Springfield, Mass., Ohio State University; University of Michigan, A. N. L. S. and A. M. S. S.; Member Executive Board, Massachusetts Library Association.

J. HOWARD ATKINS, F. J. Barnard and Co., Medford 55, Massachusetts.

LAWRENCE D. SIBERT, New Method Book Bindery, Inc., Jacksonville, Illinois.

OSCAR SCHNABEL, National Library Bindery Co., of Indiana, Inc.

BERNARD J. SCHAEFER, Chivers Book Binding Co.; President, L. B. I.

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## *Three Well-known Binders Join Forces*



LAWRENCE E. HERTZBERG



LAWRENCE SIBERT



ERNEST HERTZBERG

The Rebinding Departments of three of the country's long established library bookbinderies — New Method Book Bindery, Inc., Jacksonville, Illinois; Monastery Hill Bindery, Chicago, Illinois and Hertzberg Craftsmen, Des Moines, Iowa, have been acquired by a new company, the Hertzberg-New Method, Inc., which now occupies the new building illustrated above, located in Jacksonville, Illinois.

This building contains 26,000 square feet of floor space and is designed to provide the most modern facilities for library bookbinding. These, together with more than a century and a half of experience and skill in library bookbinding craftsmanship, will now serve its customers better with faster completion of binding orders and the finest possible workmanship.

Realizing the great importance of returning material sent for binding in the shortest possible time, and looking forward to the new demands that will be made on the library binding industry in the future, with the increased readers in schools and public libraries, larger enrollments in the colleges and universities, Hertzberg-New Method, Inc., with these expanded facilities, will be prepared to do its part in the important work of book conservation.

Lawrence Hertzberg, President of the Monastery Hill Bindery, is president of the new company. Other officers include L. D. Sibert and Robert Sibert of New Method Book Bindery, Inc., Jacksonville, as vice-presidents; Ernest Hertzberg and Fred James, Jr., both of Hertzberg Craftsmen, Des Moines, as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

The Monastery Hill Bindery, Chicago, will continue its fine leather binding. The greatly expanded facilities of New Method Book Bindery, Inc., will be used exclusively for the pre-binding and sale of "Bound to Stay Bound" books for young people.

The building in Des Moines, in which the Hertzberg Craftsmen was located, will be taken over entirely by Library Binding Service for the manufacturing of Treasure Trove Covers.

Jacksonville, rich in the history of Illinois, is in the heart of the Lincoln-Douglas country, and at one time has been the home of William Jennings Bryan, Stephen A. Douglas, General John J. Hardin, war governor, Richard Yaets Sr., who was on the ticket with Lincoln. It is, indeed, a fitting location to establish Hertzberg-New Method, Inc., dedicated to serve better the libraries of the country with the best library bookbinding.





## Standardized Lettering for Periodicals

Recently, there has been an increased number of inquiries at LBI concerning STANDARDIZED LETTERING for bound periodicals. In 1924, the California Library Association first adopted STANDARDIZED LETTERING. In 1935, its use was recommended by the Joint Committee of ALA and LBI. Since then its use has gradually spread, and today its use is general.

The use of STANDARDIZED LETTERING has several advantages: for the librarian, it eliminates the time consuming routine of preparing magazines for binding. Rub-offs or samples, and binding slips are unnecessary, except for periodicals which need special attention. All the librarian need do is add to his standing binding instructions to the binder, a notation, "use standardized lettering on bound magazines." The binder need not use rub-offs, and the chance of error in lettering is substantially reduced.

In addition, volumes bound this way have an improved appearance. Shelving is made easier, and all the essential information is set forth in a type that is clear and legible. Unnecessary words, abbreviations and decorations are eliminated.

STANDARDIZED LETTERING magazines are divided into six groups, from A to F, based upon height:

- Group A: under 8 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches
- Group B: from 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches
- Group C: from 10 to 11 inches
- Group D: from 11 $\frac{1}{8}$  to 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches
- Group E: from 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches
- Group F: from 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 16 inches

The lettering of the title should begin at 8 inches for Group B, 9 inches for Group C, 10 inches for Group D, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches for Group

E, and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches for Group F. Volume numbers (with abbreviation 'Vol.' omitted) begin at 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the shelf line; years at 3 inches with months just above, if used.

The smallest classification, Group A, has its title, volume number and year each an inch below the common standard for these items in the other groups.

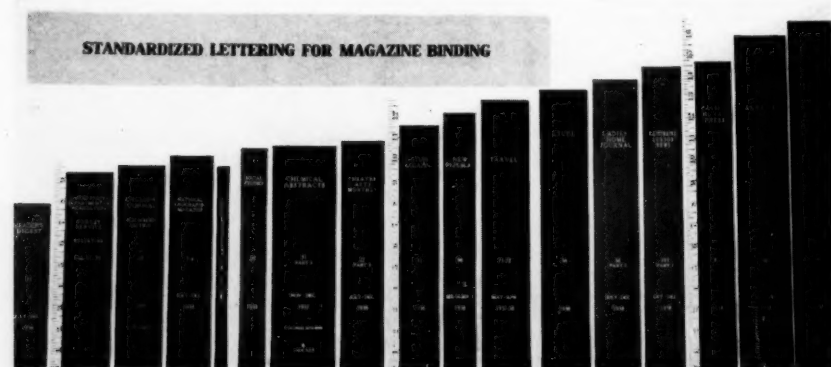
When a volume covers a single year, only the year is used. When inclusive months occur in more than one year, two lines are used, with the month above and the year below. For example: Nov. - May, 1953-54; not Nov. 1953 - May 1954.

Secondary items such as page, the word "Index" or "Supplement," or a department mark, such as "Ref." or even a call number, should, when used, begin at two inches from the shelf line. Directions to the binder should indicate the exact distance from the shelf line to the top of the first line referred to. Imprints, if used, are placed close to the shelf line.

Titles within each group are placed in alignment. Magazine titles appearing in *Readers Guide* and technical indexes are used in STANDARDIZED LETTERING. For titles not appearing in these indexes, the form given in the Union List of Serials or on the Library of Congress cards are used. Titles not appearing in any of these sources should be determined by the librarian, but should be kept short.

The use of STANDARDIZED LETTERING has justified its adoption as a time saver to librarians and binders alike. It is a significant advance in the technology of conservation of periodicals and simplifies the location and selection of volumes by users without any sacrifice in appearance.

Any librarian who has any questions concerning the use of STANDARDIZED LETTERING should refer his questions to Library Binding Institute.



## Know Our Members



**AXEL J. ERSLUND**  
Denver Book Binding Company

Seven years ago, Axel Erslund moved from Cleveland, Ohio to Denver to breathe new life into the shaky foundations of the Denver Book Binding Company, which he acquired. Mr. Erslund's struggle was aggravated by working conditions imposed by quarters smaller by one third of his present space.

Prior to moving west, Erslund, a Dane by birth and trained in bookbinding since he was 14, had worked in Cleveland for 15 years. He was associated with shops in Chicago and New York City, and also worked the in S. A. Stewart bindery in Pittsburgh and the Hugo Kalmbacher and Sons bindery in Toledo.

When Mr. Erslund took over the shop, located at the rim of the downtown business district of Denver, it included 1,000 square feet stretched in a narrow rectangle behind an attractive stone and glass brick front. In 1948, the one-story structure was extended in depth to include 2,500 square feet of floor space, thus occupying the limit of building area available.

Production has been increased further by putting tables and machines on wheels. Mr. Erslund and his wife, together with his daughter and son-in-law, plus four employees, staff the plant.

Axel Erslund's rapid progress in Denver has succeeded on the basis of specialization and quality work. He concentrates strictly on Class A library binding. The quality of his plant's work has been its best recommendation. This fine reputation has earned Mr. Erslund customers in parts as far distant as California to the west, Montana to the north and Albuquerque, New Mexico to the south.

The production of his plant is principally devoted to binding magazines for libraries and individuals. Over 1,000 magazines are processed by his shop monthly. Books are repaired and rebound at the rate of 200 a month.

Mr. Erslund prizes extra binding both for the opportunity it offers to exercise his talents and the prestige and promotion it brings to the name of his plant.

Editor's Note: Excerpts from *Book Binding and Book Production*.

## ABOUT OUR PRIZE CONTEST

As those who have used it know, our Barefoot Boy Poster has been very successful and has had wide distribution throughout the United States. As a sequel to this poster, a new one has been conceived, and the theme will be "Your Librarian is Helping to Make the Better Citizen of Tomorrow."

The picture used for this poster will be an actual photograph of the Librarian winning the contest surrounded by children of her own selection. This is only one of the awards in this unusual prize contest. Elsewhere in this issue of the "Binder" you will find rules and full details. Be sure to send in your application at once.

M. B. S.

Since 1842

# Davey Board

The  
Standard Binders Board

For Library Bindings

## The Davey Company

164 LAIDLAW AVE.  
JERSEY CITY, N. J.

### "The Minimum Specifications for Class 'A' Library Binding

by LAWRENCE D. SIBERT

#### Why Were They Drawn?

The specifications were drawn for the protection of libraries against inferior bindings not suitable for library usage. They are a minimum standard of library binding designed to be the most economical for library materials.

#### What Do These Specifications Mean?

No specific pattern has been drawn into the specifications for hand oversewing because most library volumes are sewed on the over-sewing machines. Certain types of paper and some books with narrow back margins are hand oversewed. There are many styles of sewing used. Volumes that are hand oversewed should be neat and strong.

When volumes are to be sewed through their folded sections because of narrow back margins or because it is necessary for them to open very flat for satisfactory usage, they must be carefully examined to see if the previous binding has weakened the folds, and if it has, the folds are to be reinforced with bond paper or its equal before sewing. The specifications require that on books this sewing be done on three or more tapes or cords with linen thread, usually one section at a time. On magazines, four or more tapes or cords are required. Volumes sewed through the folds will not last as long in library use as volumes that are oversewed.

Most librarians want practically all volumes trimmed on the fore edge and at the top and bottom, but some libraries have valuable editions they want left untrimmed. Some volumes are printed so close to the edges that it is not possible to trim them without cutting into the print. The specifications are drawn in broad terms to take care of all of these conditions. They do require that this operation be handled in a neat and workmanlike manner.

#### How Can These Specifications Protect the Library?

Always specify that volumes be handled according to the "Minimum Specifications for Class 'A' Library Binding." If you have any reason to believe the finished binding is not up to these standards, write the Library Binding Institute, 501 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

\*President, New Method Book Bindery, Inc. Jacksonville, Illinois (prebinding) Vice-President, Hertzberg-New Method, Inc., Jacksonville, Illinois (rebinding).

### Prize Contest

The Library Binding Institute announces a prize contest for the best essay on the subject:

**"HOW OUR LIBRARY'S BOOK CONSERVATION PROGRAM HAS BENEFITED FROM THE USE OF CLASS 'A' LIBRARY BINDING SPECIFICATIONS"**

**Who is eligible:** Any professional librarian or non-professional member of a library staff in any library in the United States of America, its territories or possessions.

**What are the prizes:** The **FIRST PRIZE** is a cash award of \$250.00 plus an all expense round trip to Washington to attend the Joint Session of Librarians and Binders on April 8, 1954, plus use of the winner's picture as part of the next L. B. I. poster on the subject: "Your Librarian is Helping to Make the Better Citizen of Tomorrow." **Second prize:** \$50.00. **Third prize:** \$25.00.

**What are the rules:** The Contest closes March 10, 1954 at midnight. The essay must not exceed 2500 words, must be type-written (black) on white letter size paper, and submitted in triplicate to the Library Binding Institute, 501 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, New York. No entry will be returned, and all entries become the property of L. B. I. and may be published or reproduced in whole or in part by L. B. I. with credit given to the author. They will be available for use by librarians, students or binders.

**Who are the Judges:** They will be appointed by the Joint Committee of A. L. A. and L. B. I.

**What you should do to enter:** Write L. B. I. for an application blank which will be assigned a number which you will put on your paper. All entries will be assigned a number so that each paper will be judged solely on its merits.



## New York Medical Association Regional Group Meeting



The New York Regional Group of the Medical Library Association held its Fall Meeting on November 7, 1953 at the Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. One of the several round-table discussions concerned conservation practices and policies. Chairman of this group was Mr. F. Pheulpin of the Library of the School

of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Present were the following:

F. Pheulpin, Library of School Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University 168th St., New York, N. Y.

E. Meyerhoff, Library of School Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, 168th St., New York, N. Y.

Miss B. Reynolds, Squibb Institute for Medical Research, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss W. Sewell, Squibb Institute for Medical Research, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sonia Wohl, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research  
Esther Judkins, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Mrs. Henrietta Perkins, Yale Medical Library, New Haven.

Mr. Francis O'Leary, Columbia University, Geology Library.

Nora Lock, John M. Wheeler Library of Ophthalmology  
Columbia University Presbyterian Medical Center, 168th St., N. Y.

Mrs. Helen Kovacs, New York State College of Medicine at Brooklyn.

Gilbert Clausman, New York Academy of Medicine, 3 East 102d St., N. Y. C.

M. Boybyl, Montefiore Hospital Medical Library.

Mrs. Kim Barrett, Hospital for Special Surgery, 321 East 42d St., N. Y. 17.

Sylvia Zisman, World Wide Medical News Service, 11 East 26th Street.

Leon Elveson, World Wide Medical News Service, 11 East 26th Street.

Saul A. Kuchinsky, Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

C. Warfield, New York Orthopaedic Dispensary and Hospital.

Olga Wiazemsky, St. Luke's Hospital Medical Library.

Rosalie Saitta, Librarian, Chemistry Library, Columbia University.

Dudley A. Weiss, General Counsel for Library Binding Institute was introduced by the Chairman, and opened the discussion with the following remarks:

"In order to discuss problems of binding intelligently, it is necessary first to consider some definitions. The first definition is that of *library binding* which may be defined as that type of binding specially developed for the purpose of conserving books and periodicals

for library use. Functionally, it involves the concept of conservation, which reduced to fundamentals, means circulation, present and future.

"The second definition is that of a library binder. There are several types of binding, included among which are edition binding, library binding and pamphlet or blank book binding. A library binder is one who specializes in binding for library usage. Economically speaking, his operations are distinguished from other binders by the fact that he works on property belonging to libraries and renders a service, not the sale of a commodity. He deals with repairing books of many diverse sizes, conditions of wear and tear for many different customers. His is not a mass type of operation such as that of an edition binder. Consequently, labor costs are a big element of his expense.

"A *certified binder* is one whose work has been examined by a subcommittee of the Joint Committee of ALA and LBI and been determined to be in accordance with the Minimum Specifications for Class A work of the Joint Committee of ALA and LBI. After a further examination of financial responsibility for the property of libraries entrusted to him, he is Certified as being capable of doing work in accordance with such specifications. He must be a member of LBI so that his work and business practices may be subject to some control and thus ensure conformity to quality standards. The Joint Committee has been in operation since 1934 and is an outstanding example of industry cooperation with the library profession. Only the library members vote on certification.

"Fundamentally, when we talk of library binding, we are talking in terms of circulation. Thus, reduced to its barest essentials in a library budget, binding expense is not an element of repair or maintenance. It is, rather, a budget-saving device, because a book properly rebound or a periodical properly bound will stand repeated circulation and thus avoid repeated purchases of the same volume, which in many cases can be done only at a high cost.

"That the library profession has been aware of this for a long time is apparent in the fact that the joint specifications for library binding were originally developed by ALA. Subsequently, the Joint Committee was formed. Over the years, the specifications have become the standard for the profession and the industry as the minimum for acceptable good binding.

"Generally speaking, conservation problems fall into the following categories:

(1) Permanent material—i. e., material which the library wishes to preserve for an indefinite period of time. This material will always be bound according to Minimum Specifications but, depending on the nature of the material, a better binding may be specified. Circulation may not be a factor here, but preservation always is the dominant consideration.

(2) Material to be circulated or kept for definite foreseeable future. This is material expected to be circulated which will be required as part of a basic collection for several years. This will always be bound according to Minimum Specifications.

(3) Temporary material — this falls into several classes. Here, a librarian must exercise judgment and together with his certified binder determine the type of binding to be used. For example, some material may be definitely temporary but have great current demand. One volume may be bound according to the Minimum Specifications while others may not be, since after they have been worn the demand may cease. In any event, each library will have its special problem as to this material.

"The significant point is that it is to the librarian's advantage to select a Certified Binder who can serve the library, consult with him relative to such problems and work out the best solution for that library. By working closely with a Certified Binder, the libraries can develop a service factor which can be of immense value.

"In turn, the binder is helped. For example, one of the questions asked by librarians is how can service be improved and the time books are in a bindery be reduced. By working closely with a binder, a librarian can schedule work so that it is returned promptly. No binder wants to keep books or periodicals for a long period of time in his plant, for this boosts his overhead and makes it unprofitable to handle such work. Quick service is much more profitable. But this is possible only by proper scheduling on the part of the library, and is accomplished only by close liaison between librarian and binder.

"Library binders are small, independently owned firms. Theirs is an intensely competitive industry, and prices are determined by sellers and buyers on a competitive basis. By-and-large, labor is the dominant cost element running between 45 per cent and 50 per cent of the cost of doing business. Material costs hover about the 20 per cent mark. A book being rebound goes through some fifty-five operations. The amount of material used in each operation is slight, so that the difference between using the highest quality and the lowest quality material is insignificant. Cheaper materials reduce the useability of the volume way out of proportion to the savings gained. Inferior materials are thus a false economy.

"For a librarian, and for the Trustees of libraries or others responsible for library policies and budgets, I could suggest two basic rules in connection with binding or conservation problems.

"First: Select a Certified Binder and work closely with him. Conservation is a continuing problem and the more closely you work with one binder, the better results you will obtain. For you can thus work out with

him a procedure covering what materials to rebind, how to prepare material for the bindery, proper schedules for binding best adopted to your needs and proper binding for your requirements.

"Second: For most situations, by specifying the Minimum Specifications, you will be assured the most for your money. These specifications cover not only material and labor, but appearance, collating all of the other requirements deemed important by the library profession.

"Finally, for your questions or problems relative to binding and conservation, the authentic source of accurate and helpful information is L.B.I."

## Binding In Holland

by GERARD B. VAN DEENE  
National Library Bindery Company



Last year I was invited by a visiting Dutch librarian to tell her colleagues about our library bookbinding processes and methods.

During my recent trip to Europe, therefore, I spent a great deal of time in Holland, where I visited most of the large cities to meet with librarians to explain and demonstrate our binding techniques.

By observing the public libraries of Holland, I had the opportunity to compare their binding methods with ours. Books are covered with plain black cloth, and sewing is done through the backs of the sections along two or three tapes. Few books show the title and author on the back of the books. Instead, they are marked with a catalogue number. Magazines are bound in lightweight buckram (a Dutch product) or in plain cloth, lettered with the title, volume and year.

Most libraries send their work to private binders, but some of the larger ones have their own binderies. It is interesting to note that although the American dollar will buy more than the Dutch guilder, the cost of binding library books and magazines is about double in Holland.

It is apparent that Dutch binders are eager to improve their binding methods. They are eager to receive our help and suggestions in order to develop a better system of bookbinding and do away with their old-fashioned techniques. I am keeping in contact with a few binders in Holland, and hope that they will soon be able to advance toward better binding practices.

# of Making Many Books \*



When Marie Ruzicka graduated in 1927 with a major in economics and sociology, she set out for a career in social work. For the next two years she held a working fellowship at Hopkins, studied and did casework, took an M. A. in sociology, and at last resisted the family vocation no longer. Her father's bookbinding business was expanding. Her brother had gone to Greensboro, N. C., the year before to establish a new plant.

Today the library binding business of Joseph Ruzicka is well known among libraries of the southeast. Unlike commercial binderies, it binds and repairs books that belong to libraries, public or private. It binds new books only after they are owned by the consumer. It engages in no manufacturing.

The business is now held by Joseph Ruzicka, Marie Ruzicka Gross, and the estate of her brother. Mr. Ruzicka, who has retired to the more esoteric delights of restoring rare volumes, takes no active part in the business. This leaves the management up to Mrs. Gross.

"They call me 'the boss,'" she says unaffectedly. "We don't have any title like 'president.' I just oversee the two plants (Baltimore and Greensboro). If anything goes wrong, they call on me." To manage the Greensboro plant, Mrs. Gross has her nephew, Joseph V. Ruzicka, Jr. For Baltimore, she has her husband, Christian W. Gross, Jr.

Are bookbinders born or made? Mrs. Gross would indicate that they have to be born. She is the fifth generation to work in a business begun in 1757 at Radnice in Bohemia. The American phase began in 1875 when her grandfather started his bindery in Baltimore. Mr. Gross, on the other hand, would indicate that they are made. Before he entered the bindery, he owned a wholesale and retail meat business. Today he is as much a part of the Baltimore plant as though he had several generations behind him.

Library binding is an extraordinary business. To one side of a room in the Baltimore plant you may see several many-needed sewing machines stitching greedily into

periodicals as fast as the operators can put in the signatures. To the other side of the room you can see hand sewers at their traditional wooden frames where they ply their single needles in time-honored fashion. The combination of the very old with the very new is characteristic. Last summer the Baltimore plant installed a big hydraulic press to give volumes the final squeeze before they return to their libraries. Recently it has ordered a typesetting machine in order to economize on title printing on the backs of volumes. These innovations, incidentally, are as exciting to Mrs. Gross as a new spring outfit. Nevertheless, the policy is to use mechanical methods only where the saving in time and effort does not compromise the quality of the job. Mass production is not for the Ruzicka bindery. "When we get two of the same volume, that's mass production for us," says Mrs. Gross.

Library binding either calls or develops extraordinary people. It is craftsmanship which is exacting, gives a feeling of independence, inspires satisfying interest, and engenders deep loyalty. Mrs. Gross moves easily and informally among her employees, who call her "Miss Marie." It is typical that they come to the bindery for summer jobs (summer is the busy time because libraries can spare books in the academic off-season). They start work in the plant as soon as they stop school. Hence, Mrs. Gross may introduce you to a woman in her mid-thirties who has been there for eighteen years.

Library binding is not wealthy business, according to Mrs. Gross, because libraries and bibliophiles are not rich, but it is steady and fascinating.

"If you stick around binding long enough," she likes to say, "it sticks to you."

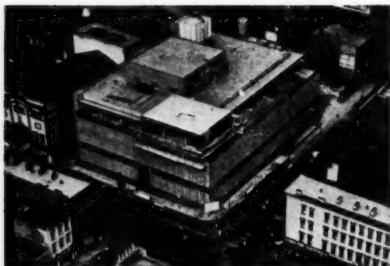
\*From *Goucher Alumnae Quarterly*, Fall, 1953.

## COLORED SLIDES AVAILABLE

Did you know that L. B. I. has a set of approximately 100 colored slides with titles available for use by libraries and schools? The slides in 35 mm. size clearly and simply depict binding operations. Interested? Write Miss Barr!

Since we published this notice last issue, eight libraries and schools have requested these slides. Have you seen them yet?

### Progress Report on New Library \*



CARL VITZ

Director, Cincinnati (Ohio) and Hamilton  
County, Public Library

The elements of our new building program were presented in an article which appeared in the *Library Journal*, December 15, 1949. With a few exceptions, the program as then developed has been followed. The building, 140' x 180', will provide two public service floors, four stack levels, and an office and processing floor. The total floor area is 196,000 square feet.

# Saylback

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The building owes much to the "Baltimore Plan" developed by Joseph Wheeler; that is, all public service floors are conceived as open space with departmental separations made with movable book shelves. Two levels of book stacks are located below the first service floor, two above the second service floor. The divisions between departments are low shelves on metal A-shaped frames, decidedly different from conventional library furniture.

A deviation from the Baltimore layout is the location of the vertical transportation. Elimination of the central court utilized in Baltimore made possible concentrating elevators and stairs in a compact central core. This arrangement has a definite advantage in the distribution of people in all floors above the Main floor. It likewise brings users of upper floors down within the charge-out area.

Although thoroughly modern in feeling and functional in plan, the building will have its monumental features, such as a Memorial Room to house the library's rarities. A wide terrace extending in front of the administrative offices and children's room will have a reflecting pool. On an undeveloped portion of the lot will be a garden financed by the Federated Garden Clubs. Other features of the new library will include a Fine Arts Department, a Children's Room and an Audio-visual Center.

The delay in occupying the building has postponed what is expected to be our biggest headache — moving our million and a half volumes to the new building. Detailed plans are being prepared, however, and when our "M" day arrives we shall begin the move.

\*From *Library Journal*, December 15, 1953.

### Binder Entertains and Instructs Students

On December 8, 1953, Savidge and Krimmel of Philadelphia entertained the students of the School of Library Science of the Drexel Institute. Winfred B. Krimmel, senior partner of the firm, introduced the students to the various binding processes. The following letter which was received from Miss MacPherson, Dean of the School, indicates how profitable such excursions can be for the uninitiated.

"Dear Mr. Krimmel:

I want to thank you and your staff for the cordial reception given to the Drexel group on December 8. All the students, as well as the five younger members of our library staff, were much impressed with what they were told and with the different steps necessary to take in binding a book.

One staff member remarked that she had not realized how complicated an undertaking the binding was. Several were sur-

February, 1954

# The Library Binder

prised that human hands were needed for so many of the processes, even though you have machines for sewing, etc. You can see that these people were observant.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet D. MacPherson  
Dean"

## Ruzicka Family Twice Honored

How much binders can contribute to the welfare and progress of libraries was demonstrated in permanent form this past Fall when the North Carolina Library Association bestowed two unprecedented honors on the Ruzicka family.

First, was a Memorial Fund Scholarship dedicated to the memory of George Bentley, Robert Christ and J. Vernon Ruzicka. Bentley and Christ were librarians.

Second, was the election of Joseph Ruzicka to Honorary Membership in the Association. The telegram received by Mr. Ruzicka read as follows:

*We have taken the privilege of naming you an honorary member of the North Carolina Library Association. May we express to you at this time our appreciation of what you have done for us in the past and of our anticipation of much good fellowship in the future.*

*Esther Evans, Secretary.*

The Staff of *The Library Binder* takes this opportunity to extend congratulations and best wishes to this "Family of Binders."

## They Supply Things We Binders Use

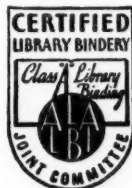
Since 1846, the House of Gane has supplied the binder with a complete line of materials, tools and equipment.

Henry A. Gane, a bookbinder of Boston, founded this service business for the aid of his fellow craftsmen. That was the beginning of the Gane organization which now operates offices and warehouses on a coast to coast basis with Gane Bros. & Company of New York, Inc., located at 333 Hudson Street and Gane Bros. & Lane, Inc., at 1335 West Lake Street, Chicago, in St. Louis at 4115 Forest Park Boulevard, San Francisco at 184 Second Street and Los Angeles at 140 West 17th Street.

In addition to carrying the country's most complete line of supplies, many of them nationally famous name brands such as Davey, DuPont, Interlaken, Peerless and others, an equally famous line of equipment is sold and serviced.

Gane also operates its own glue department as well as its own machine shop where used equipment is fully rebuilt and new machines such as the Meyers manual, air and recently developed hydraulic roller backers and Plegger self-centering roller backer, now owned by Gane, are produced. In addition, other standard and specialty built machines for the library and edition trade are built.

The companies are headed by E. L. Wirth, Chairman of the Board and A. C. Jecklin, Sr. President, who between them, have almost a century of service.



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February, 1954

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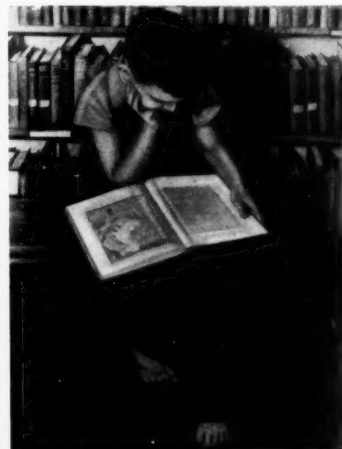
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